



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 25, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Professional Services Contract With HDR Engineering, Inc., For The Mission Creek Fish Passage Project At The Caltrans Channels Final Design Plans And Construction Specifications

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to execute a professional services agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$511,600 to prepare final design plans and construction specifications for the Mission Creek Fish Passage Project at the Caltrans Channels; and
- B. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to increase these services by 10 percent, or \$51,160 to cover any cost increases that may result from final design review and construction requirements.

DISCUSSION:

Project Description

The purpose of the fish passage project at the Caltrans Channels is to remove the single largest barrier to upstream steelhead trout migration on Mission Creek. With excellent habitat in the upper watershed, an existing population of rainbow trout and frequent attempts of steelhead trout to migrate upstream (five of the last six years), the City is in a unique position to re-establish migratory access for endangered steelhead trout in Mission Creek.

Project Review

Over the last two years, the fish passage project at the Caltrans Channels has undergone an extensive design and review process. The City Council and Creeks Advisory Committee have both received presentations on the project. The Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, which owns the flood control channels, has reviewed and approved the concept design and has granted the City a secondary use agreement to modify the flood control channels to allow for fish passage. The resources agencies, including the California Department of Fish and Game and National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration, have also reviewed and support the project. Additional project review, including impacts to water supply, flood capacity, and biological resources, will occur during the environmental review and permitting processes which will occur prior to finalizing the design.

Consultant Selection

In October 2007, a request for proposals was distributed to 48 engineering and design firms located throughout California. Five consulting firms submitted proposals and all 5 firms were interviewed (HDR Engineering, Inc., MNS Engineers, Inc., Penfield and Smith, Questa Engineering Corporation, and URS).

City staff from the Creeks Division and Public Works Engineering Division conducted the interviews. After careful review, staff recommends HDR Engineering, Inc., a multi-disciplinary professional services firm located in Irvine, California. HDR Engineering, Inc. has demonstrated experience with the engineering and design of fish passage and flood control projects. HDR Engineering, Inc. has extensive experience with public sector projects, including successful work with the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District and Ventura County Watershed Protection District. The company takes a collaborative approach to design and has completed a number of successful fish passage projects. Previous clients, including the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District and Cachuma Conservation Release Board, have been pleased with the innovative design work and professional conduct of HDR Engineering, Inc. and have recommended them for selection.

Timeline

It is anticipated the final design plans, construction specifications, and permitting will take up to 12 months to complete. With Council approval of the contract, the project will begin in August 2009, and final design products will be delivered by August 2010. The timeline includes environmental analysis and permitting, review by stakeholders and resource agencies, and public meetings with the Creeks Advisory Committee and the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The cost to prepare the final designs and construction specifications is \$511,600. This amount includes preliminary plan peer review, final design plans and specifications, and bid support for the anticipated project construction phase. A 10 percent contingency amount of \$51,160 is also included to cover any cost increases that may result from final design review and construction requirements. Including contingency funds, the total cost for the HDR Engineering, Inc. contract is \$562,760.

Funding for the contract will be provided by \$355,000 in grant funds from the California Department of Fish and Game, Annenberg Foundation grant funds of \$135,000 provided by the EDC, and \$72,760 from the Fiscal Year 2010 Creeks Capital Fund.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Removing the primary barrier to steelhead trout migration on Mission Creek will help restore the health and diversity of critical fish habitat within the City of Santa Barbara.

PREPARED BY: George Johnson, Creeks Supervisor

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office